

Crawley Borough Council

	Report No:DS/75	E
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Report to General Purposes Committee

2 July 2007

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Key Points

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of the requirements under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to hold a review of Polling Districts and Places and recommends a format for the review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That a review of polling districts and polling places be carried out as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

PAT TINSLEY
Head of Democratic Services

3 Background

- 3.1 The Council is required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to complete a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places during 2007 and subsequently at least every 4 years.
- 3.2 The legislation gives some clear guidance on how the review must be carried out. When designating polling districts the authority must seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have reasonable facilities for voting, and, as far as reasonable and practicable that the polling places are accessible to all electors.
- 3.3 When considering the designation of a polling place the authority must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled people. In addition the authority must seek representations from people or organisations that have expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different disabilities.

4 Content

Recommended approach

- 4.1 The legislation states that public notice of the review must be given and it is proposed that this done with a notice in the local press, the Council's website and a direct invitation to make comments to local political parties, disability organisations and ward councillors
- 4.2 All existing polling stations will be inspected by the Council's Access Officer with the Electoral Services Manager to identify any access issues.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the deadline for responses be 7th September and a scheme be submitted to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 1st October 2007 together with a report setting out responses to the consultation. The scheme would then be considered by Council at its meeting held on 31st October 2007 in time for the annual publication of the Electoral Register on 1st December 2007.

The Current Polling Scheme

- 4.4 Where voting for a ward takes place at more than one polling place, the ward is divided into separate polling districts. These polling districts form the Borough's 15 wards, the boundaries of which were set by the Boundary Committee for England in 2002 following a periodic electoral review. The current polling scheme is shown at Appendix A

5. Ward Members' Views

- 5.1. Ward Members will be consulted as part of the review.

6. Staffing, Financial and Legal Implications/Powers

- 6.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 sets out a duty for the Council to carry out a polling district review by 31 December 2007, that representations must be made by the Returning Officer to the Council, and that the Council must actively

seek representations from persons it thinks have expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with different forms of disability.

7 Links to the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan

7.1 The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Community Strategy

Local Economy	N	Health and Social Care	N
Affordable Housing	N	Community Safety	N
Lifelong Learning	N	Local Environment	N

The following key principles are applicable:-

(i) Working together	y
(ii) Dignity, respect and opportunities for all	y
(iii) Leaving no-one behind	y
(iv) Making it last	y

This report achieves the following aims as set out in the Corporate Plan

Providing high quality services	y	Giving exemplary customer service and satisfaction	y
Being financially efficient and well managed	y	Developing motivated, positive and empowered staff	y

8 Reasons for the Recommendation

8.1 To seek the Committee's approval for the timetable and method of the review.

9 Background Papers

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Contact Officer:- Andrew Oakley
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Ward	PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate
Bewbush	LA	Bewbush Community Centre, Dorsten Square	6124
Broadfield North	LBA	Broadfield Youth and Community Centre, Broadfield Barton	4306
Broadfield South	LBB	Broadfield Youth and Community Centre, Broadfield Barton	4106
Furnace Green	LCA	Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road	4425
Maidenbower	LCB	Maidenbower Community Centre, Harvest Road	2658
Maidenbower	LCC	The Brook School, Salterns Road	3182
Gossops Green	LD	Gossops Green Community Centre, Capel Lane	3836
Ifield	LEA	The Mill Primary School, Ifield Drive	1536
Ifield	LEB	Masonic Lodge, (St. Margarets Hall)	2702
Ifield	LF	Wybourne Community Centre, Hyde Drive	2249
Langley Green	LG	Langley Green Community Centre, Stagelands	5366
Northgate	LI	Northgate Primary School, Green Lane	3582
Pound Hill North	LJA	Milton Mount Primary School, Grattons Drive	2948
Pound Hill North	LJB	Wakehams Green Community Centre, Wakehams Green Drive	2104
Pound Hill South and Worth	LK	Pound Hill Community Centre, Worth Road	2621
Pound Hill South and Worth	LL	Crawley Pupil Referral Unit, Turners Hill Road	3350
Southgate	LM	St Mary's Church Hall, Wakehurst Drive	2864
Southgate	LN	Southgate West Community Centre, Ditchling Hill	3325
Three Bridges	LO	Montefiore Institute, Hazelwick Road	2574
Three Bridges	LP	Three Bridges Junior School, Gales Drive	1662
Tilgate	LQ	Tilgate Community Centre, Shackleton Road	2165
Tilgate	LR	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Titmus Drive	2309
West Green	LS	West Green Primary School, West Green Drive	3467